Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal

Section 1. General administrative information

Aquisition Of Malheur Wildlife Mitigation Site

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9106

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Burns Paiute Tribe

Business acronym (if appropriate) BPT

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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Subcontractors.

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.
Section 11, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.
N/A

Other planning document references.
Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project, perpared by Oregon Wildlife Managers for Bonneville Power Administration project # 92-84 BPA , Assessing Oregon Trust Agreement Planning project using GAP analysis; perpared by ODFW for BPA; Status of the interior Columbia Basin: summary of scientific finding, USDA Forest Service, ODFW District Wildlife Management Plans. North Fork Malheur Scenic River (USDA 1993). Malheur Wild and Scenic River (USDA 1993)

Subbasin.
Malheur River subbasin

Short description.
The project would protect and enhance critical fish and wildife habitat. The project consist of riparian/riverine that can be restored to its natural state. In many places there are large areas of shrub steppe that could provide significant HU's..

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
	Anadromous fish		Construction	+	Watershed
+	Resident fish		O & M	+	Biodiversity/genetics
X	Wildlife	+	Production	+	Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research		Ecosystems
	Climate	+	Monitoring/eval.	+	Flow/survival
	Other	+	Resource mgmt		Fish disease
		+	Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement	X	Wildlife habitat en-
		X	Acquisitions		hancement/restoration

Other keywords.
Restoration, enhancement, production, exotic and wild trout interactions, increase wildlife HU's, maximize wildlife winter range

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9705900	Securing Wildlife Mitgation -Oregon	Planning & coordination
9701900	Stinkingwater Salmonid Project	Fisheries project sponsored by BPT in the same watershed

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Aquire Denny Jones Ranch	a	obtain funding

		b	purchase
2	Evaluate Conditions	a	conduct inventories: riparian, wetland, upland, vegetation and aquatic
3	Develop management plans	a	work with local , state, federal and other appropriate entities
		b	fisheries plan
		c	wildlife plan
		d	vegetation and noxious weed plan
		e	grazing plan
		f	geology plan
		g	archeology plan
		h	education plan for the tribe
		i	cultural foods plan
		j	hay production plan
4	Integrate all management plans i	a	impliment all plans into one manual

Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	1/1999	9/1999	
2	6/1999	10/2001	
3	5/1999	5/2001	
4	05/1999	05/2001	
			TOTAL 0.00%

Schedule constraints.
Delays due to extensive landowner negotiatons and slow response time from the regulatory agencies regarding insuance of permits for proposed in-stream work.

Completion date.
Aquistion would be complete FY99. O&M continuing over the life of the mitigation project. Monitoring & Evaluation would be done at HEP determined schedules.

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel	Wildlife Biologist 1040hrs @ $15.90, Program Manager 2080 hrs @ $13. 90	$45,448
Fringe benefits	25%	$11,362
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	Purchase existing haying equipment and implements, 1 flatbed 1 ton truck	$200,000
Operations & maintenance	6700 acres @ 15.00/acre	$100,500
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		$2,000,000
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel	120 miles round trip X 4days/week X 20 weeks @ .$31/mile	$3,000
Indirect costs	29%	$46,000
Subcontracts		
Other		
TOTAL		$2,406,310

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total budget	$100,500	$100,500	$100,500	$100,500
O&M as % of total	28.00%	28.00%	28.00%	28.00%

Section 6. Abstract

The Burns Paiute Tribe is proposing to acquire the Denny Jones Ranch in Juntura, Oregon. This acquisition would allow the Tribe as well as other state and federal agencies to manage 6700 acres of richly diverse property on the Malheur River. The ranch holds deed to ~ 7 miles of the Malheur River which includes 328 acres of 1888 water rights and leases 21,000 acres of BLM and 4000 acres of state land.

The project will benefit a diverse population of fish, wildlife and vegetation species. Objectives would include: removal of cattle from damaged riparian, wetlands and upland areas, fencing, riparian restoration and enhancement, increase wildlife use and reestablish historical home range for migratory species, weed control and maximize water quality.

Currently, the ranch is in very poor condition. The present land practices contributes to the degradation of land and water quality. According to federal and state officials, the Malheur River is highly impacted by the current grazing practices.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

Wildlife Mitigation Project

The Burns Paiute Tribe of Oregon is submitting this wildlife project as a mitigation proposal under the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act Public law 96-501.

The Malheur River was a very important area for the Burns Paiute Tribe. This area is directly related to the historical aboriginal sites of the tribe. Tribal members have used the Malheur Basin for thousands of years. Of the few remnant native salmonids left in the upper Snake and Malheur River, redband, bull trout and other native species as well as extinct populations of anadromous fish, were very important food sources for the tribe, comprised of a number of migratory bands of Northern Paiutes.

The Tribe proposes to acquire the 6700-acre Jones Ranch through Boneville Power Administration fish and wildlife mitigation funds.

Denny Jones, of Juntura, Oregon currently owns the Jones ranch. In addition to the Jones Ranch Property, there are 21,000 acres of leased BLM land and 4,000 acres of leased state land.

The goal of the Burns Paiute Tribe is to restore the ecosystem functions of the Jones Ranch and enhance its many diverse resources. An integrated cooperation program with state and federal agencies will accomplish this. The techniques used will be primarily passive restoration that focus on the minimization of activities that are causing degradation or preventing the recovery of the native biota. This will be done throughout the entirety of the deeded and leased land.

b. Proposal objectives.

Resource Value of the Jones Ranch

The Jones ranch is located on the Malheur River approximately 8 miles east of Juntura. It is bisected by Highway 20, with approximately 1/8 of the ranch on the north side of the highway and 7/8 on the south side. The total deeded acreage is 6700 with 328 acres of 1888 water rights. The ranch also includes 21,000 acres of BLM lease and 4000 acres of state lease. On the BLM land, there are 12 stock ponds that are in current use by the Jones Ranch. The property also comes with 2 houses, 1 tenant house and 1 bunk house. There are 3 irrigation pumps on the that feed out of the river; 2-10 horse power and1 - 7 ½ power pumps. The land yields an average of 1200 tons of alfalfa (1/3) and meadow

grass (2/3). Approximately 7 miles of the Malheur River is part of the 6700 acres of deeded land.

Resources:

Wildlife: Many wildlife species benefit from the cover and forage provided by a moderate native shrub component in addition to the native grasses and forbs within vegetation communities of the Jones Ranch. Theses species included sage grouse, and loggerhead shrikes, both of which are a Category 2 candidate species.

Sage grouse leks have been identified on the surrounding allotment adjacent to the Jones property. Sage grouse need a mosaic of habitat types for structuring, nesting, brood-rearing and wintering. Baseline data on special status wildlife species other than sage grouse is lacking. Potential habitat for these special status species such as the loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl and Mojave black collared lizard are present.

Middle to late seral stage vegetation communities generally best meet forage and cover needs of many wildlife species. The presence of sage grouse suggests that the shrub cover/forage ratio is adequate for many sagebrush dependant wildlife species. Middle to late seral stage vegetation communities are found on the Jones Ranch. Wintering big game also utilize early spring growth on cheatgrass found primarily within the lower elevations of the Malheur River Canyon and the Jones property.

On the BLM allotments, some species, such as burrowing owls, are associated with early seral conditions found in portions if Horse Camp and Dinner Creek. Within the BLM allotments, there are several perennial creeks and streams that flow into the Malheur River via Jones Ranch (see Fisheries).

The Jones Ranch is located important mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk wintering range. Accroding to state and federal officials, the ranch has a high potential to increase the habitat and vegetation for a longer sustainable use by migratory wildlife.

Fisheries: Many tributatries of the Malheur River historically supported redband trout and bull trout as well as anadromous forms of salmonids. Bull trout and redband are a catagory two species. Known populations of redbands remain in Canyon Creek and Hunter Creek of the Jones Ranch.

Many waterways flow through the Jones Ranch and surrounding allotments on through to the Malheur River. Creeks are as follow: Hunter Creek, Dinner Creek, Deadhorse Creek, Canyon Creek, Indian Creek, Sperry Creek, Saddlehorse Creek, Pine Creek, Swamp Creek, Black Canyon Creek and Dipping Creek. Along with these creeks, the Jones Ranch has 328 acres of 1888 water rights.

Riparian: Hunter Creek is a perennial stream with a moderate gradient that flows through Horse Camp and Dinner Creek pastures. The upper stream has cut through dep silty soils in the past, leaving steep, easily erodible banks. As the stream continues, the stream channel becomes more stable withh some short streches of bedrock. Redband trout are present in the stream. Woody species are not present aloong much of the riparian area but woody debris indicates past presence. Canyon Creek is a perennial stream with moderate gradient.

The riparian areas along the Malheur River are highly degraded and eroding. This can be attributed to many enviornmental and human causes. The banks along the grazed areas show evidence of hoof shear, bare soil, vegetatably unstable and little to no woody plants. Much of this area has been cleared of the willows and shrubs along the banks to increase grass growth.

In high water events, the banks erode at an elevated rate. There is little vegetation during the high flows to hold down any soil. Most of these allotment are used as winter feeding sites by the ranch because of the convenience of it's location. Livestock are left along the banks until early spring. You can only imagine the condition of the banks during high flows or when lage amounts water is released from Beulah or Warmsprings Reservoirs.

Recreation: Recreational use is generally limited to dispersed upland bird and bbig game hunting and it's associated activities. Speery Creek WAS (OR-3-35), 5,600 acres, is fully within the allotment. Important wilderness values associatted with the WSA include outstanding opportunities for the soitude and primitie types of recreation (hiking, hunting etc.). crucial winter deer range habitat alon the breaks of the Malheur River, are oustanding examples of rugged, discrete canyonlands.

In conclusion, the riparian zone, redband trout and wildlife would benefit from a change in grazing management on the pastures and along the Malheur River. Changin the season of use to enhance riparian regeneration or partitioning tha pastures and wetlands into smaller grazing units are possible alternatives to allow recovery and grazing use.

The project is consistent with all known local, state, federal and tribal laws. The NW Power Planning Council under th Columbia Fish and Wildlife Program has approved similar projects in the State of Oregon. Bonnevill, including the recent N..E. Oregon Wildlife Project, involving the Nez Perce Tribe has successfully implemented several of these projects. The Project is covered under Bonneville's Wildlife (BPA 1997b, BPA 1997c).

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

This project is within the Malheur River Basin. The acquisition of this property would give us the opportunity to gain an important part of the Malheur River that has been identified by the Malheur Wild and Scenic River Management Plan (1993) and the North Fork Malheur Scenic

River Management Plan (1993) as an important area for restoration. The goals and objectives of this project would fall directly into these management plans.

Resource assessments include archaeological, geological and paleontological. There has been two Indian graves found on the ranch. One has been looted and the other one still remains preserved according to ranch owner Denny Jones.

Although this section of the Malheur River continues to support a variety of native and exotic species of fish, the quality of survival of fry and their viability is very poor. Due to the loss of riparian cover in much of the basin, water temperature are elevated and are likely to be an impediment to fish production in many protons of the river. The quality of the upland is very poor as well. According to state biologist, the forage on the ranch is primarily taken up buy the livestock with little left to support any other type of native ruminant. Deer road kill is increasingly high in this section of the ranch due to poor quality winter range forage. This is due mainly to overgrazing and the loss of a good portion of the native riparian vegetation.

Overgrazing has also been attributed to the increase of noxious weed in and around the ranch property. While much of the upland is in good condition, there are areas that are in very poor condition such as the creek bottoms of most of the ravines and canyons. These areas are highly accessible to livestock and are used and grazed for extensive periods.

The project will link adjacent properties owned by the Bureau of Land Management . cooperative management agreements will lead to a much greater area being managed for the species in question as well as greater species diversity.

The techniques that will be employed for restoration will primarily involve the restrictions of activities that significantly impact aquatic, riparian and upland ecological functions. The use of natural restoration on such large scale is a concept that has not yet been adequately tested. This project provides a unique opportunity for testing and modeling passive testing in the southeast region of Oregon (Beschta 1991) (Beschta 1994) (Kauffman 1997).

d. Project history

Does not apply, new project.

e. Methods.

Using Oregon Gap analysis, Oregon Trust Agreement Planning project and The NPPC fish & Wildlife program criteria for project development. USF&WS HEP procedures for determining habitat units for target species for evaluation & monitoring of any project approved.

f. Facilities and equipment.

The Burns Paiute tribe currently has office space for this project. Bonneville Power Administration has already supplied computer. The current Bonneville Power Administration contract covers salary, travel, and administrative cost to support the mitigation coordinator position.

g. References.

Beschta, R.L., W.S. Platts and J.B. Kauffman. 1991. Field review of fish habitat improvement projects in the Grande Ronde and John Day River Basins of eastern Oregon. DOE/BP-21493-1. US Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR.

Beschta, R.L., W.S. Platts, J.B. Kauffman and M.T. Hill. 1994. Artificial stream restoration—money well-spent or an expensive failure? Universities Council on Water Resources Annual Conference, Big Sky Montana, Carbondale, IL

Bonneville Power Administration 1997a. Watershed Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS – 0265. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR

Bonneville Power Administration 1997b. Wildlife Mitigation Program Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS – 0246. Portland, OR

Kauffman, J.V., R.L. Beschta, N. Otting and D. Lytjen. 1997. An ecological perspective of riparian and stream restoration in the western United States. Fisheries 22:12-24.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

This project is directly related to the Oregon Wildlife Mitigation Coordination, Planning and Implementation. The Oregon Wildlife Mitigation is the umbrella project that this project fits under. This project has helped the Burns Paiute create the Stinkingwater project (9701900) as well as new projects being submitted by the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Section 9. Key personnel

Individuals working on this project will require a wide range of professional skills. All individuals working on this project will meet or exceed specific qualifications needed to implement this project as outlined by the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Information will be in the form of Quarterly, Annual reports and public presentation. Burns Paiute Tribe's internal documents are available to the public upon request.